US assistance for augmenting Indian Naval strength

2976. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief of the Indian Navy recently paid a visit to the US for seeking aid for augmenting Indian naval strength and capacity; and

(b) whether he sought support for PC-3 Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft, if so, the details of US-assistance sought and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINSITER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) visited the United States in March 2005 to strengthen defence ties between the two navies.

(b) CNS obtained an update on the availability and condition of PC-3 Orion aircraft, the feasibility of acquiring some aircraft, and other information concerning the service life and life-cycle support for the aircraft.

Anomaly in promotion policy

2977. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's promotion policy has created discontent among Navy and IAF officers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the two services of Indian Defence are not getting the prompt promotion as is the case with Army officers; and

(d) what steps are taken to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Officers of the Navy and the Air Force are given promotion when due, as in the case of Army officers and there is no delay.

(d) Does not arise.